

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, 13, 15, 17-19, 21-25, 27 and 29 are now pending in the application. Claims 2, 5, 12, 14, 16, 20, 26 and 28 have been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

Very minor amendments have been made throughout the written specification, primarily to include the corresponding reference numbers at various areas where specific elements of the drawings are discussed, but where the corresponding reference number was not mentioned. Reference number 10 has been added to the written specification on page 6 of the originally filed application. This number was used in the drawing of Figure 1, but inadvertently omitted from the written specification.

No new matter has been added to the application by any of the above-explained amendments. Other various minor amendments have been made to even further improve the readability of the application. Entry of all of these amendments is therefore respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 11, 15, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith (U.S. 2001/0043288). Without acquiescing in the propriety of this rejection, and strictly in the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application, minor amendments have been made to each of independent claims 1, 11, 15 and 25 to

incorporate subject matter from at least one of the “objected to” claims. For example, claim 1 has been amended to recite, in “either or” fashion, the limitations of dependent claims 2 and 5 (but not including the limitations of dependent claim 3 from which claim 5 depends). Accordingly, it is believed that all of the independent claims are now in form for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. The remaining independent claims have been amended in similar fashion. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

CONDITIONALLY ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 2-10, 12-13, 16-24, and 26-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The undersigned gratefully acknowledges the conditional allowability of the foregoing dependent claims. The independent claims have each been amended to incorporate the subject matter of at least one of the “objected to” dependent claims. Accordingly, it is believed that all of the remaining pending claims should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner

believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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